

2006 / Fiscal Year 2007 Priorities

2006 Legislative Priority

Protecting Children from Sexual Predators

To implement tougher penalties to protect Missouri children, Governor Blunt proposes:

- Mandating a minimum sentence of 25 years in prison for a first offense of statutory rape, statutory sodomy, or sexual trafficking involving a child under the age of 13. In addition, a suspension of imposition of the sentence would be prohibited.
- Adding individuals who have plead guilty to, or been found guilty of, an offense against a child under age 13 to the current lifetime monitoring law.
- Increasing the current maximum sentence for predatory and persistent sexual offenders.
- Increasing minimum penalties for Internet sex offenders.
- Improving the state's sex offender registry to mandate reporting periods to keep information and distinguishing characteristics current. Offenders would also be required to take an updated picture for the registry annually.

Keeping Dangerous Offenders in State Custody

The Department of Mental Health administers the housing and security of civilly committed sexually violent predators. The Governor's budget includes:

- \$2 million to renovate existing facilities to open units to house these sexual offenders.
- \$1.7 million to operate an additional treatment unit to confine sexual offenders.

Better Tools for Law Enforcement

Law enforcement personnel risk their lives each and every day to protect Missourians. Officers across the state continue the fight against meth and other crimes that threaten the safety of Missourians. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2007 budget includes:

- \$13.4 million for the Missouri Highway Patrol's final phase of a three-year pay increase, the phase in of a full-service crime lab in Springfield, vehicle safety upgrades, and crime lab equipment improvements.
- \$271,021 to retain other critical state law enforcement personnel.

A New Women's Prison

Nationally, women are being incarcerated at twice the rate of men. This is true in Missouri as well. The current Chillicothe Correctional facility was built in 1895, was never designed to be a prison, and is out-dated.

- For the safety of the public and the Corrections employees who work at the old facility, the Governor has recommended \$120 million in bond proceeds to construct a new women's prison.

Protecting Missourians

“The criminal laws of this state should embody the values and expectations of the people of Missouri.”

- Matt Blunt

2005 Successes

Combating Missouri's Meth Epidemic

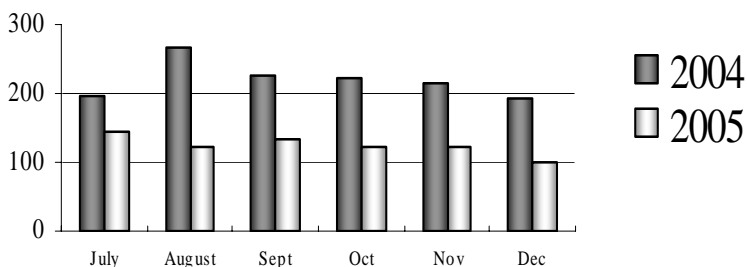
Missouri has led the nation in methamphetamine incidents for several years in a row. In fact, Missouri has typically had about twice as many incidents as the next closest state. In 2004, for example, Missouri was first in the nation with 2,788 incidents while Iowa was second with 1,300. In 2003, Missouri was first with 2,860; Iowa was second with 1,240; and California was third with 1,239.

To put that in even greater perspective, Missouri has accounted for 17.4 percent of the nation's meth incidents over

the course of the past two years. Governor Blunt spearheaded new legislation that:

- Limits the quantity of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products, the key ingredients needed to make meth. Individuals can buy up to 9 grams per month (3 larger sized boxes of cold tablets).

**Tracking Missouri's
Methamphetamine Incidents**



*SB 10-Pseudoephedrine Control-Signed into law 06-15-05, effective 07-14-05

- Elevates products containing pseudoephedrine and combination products containing ephedrine and pseudoephedrine to the level of a Schedule V controlled substance.
- Requires pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products to be kept behind a pharmacy counter and sold only by a pharmacist or a pharmaceutical technician. Compounds in liquid or liquid capsule form are exempt because meth cannot be readily manufactured from these products.
- Requires individuals who want to purchase restricted products to show a photo ID card.
- Requires pharmacies to maintain purchase logs and make them available for inspection to law enforcement officers.

Strengthening Missouri's Sex Offender Laws

Sex offenders and those who prey on children violate Missourians' most basic values. Missouri must make sure its laws protect the public, especially vulnerable children.

Governor Blunt and the Missouri General Assembly took action last year to strengthen Missouri's sex offender laws, enacting legislation that is among the most aggressive in the country. Missouri joins only five other states that have Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) tracking programs or have passed legislation to implement a GPS tracking program for sex offenders. There are over 2,500 offenders incarcerated in Missouri for sexual crimes against children. Changes and additions to Missouri's law in 2005 include:

- Any sex offender who has previously been found guilty of a sex offense and commits another sex offense after August 28, 2005, against a victim less than 14 years of age shall be supervised by the Board of Probation and Parole for the duration of his or her natural life or to 65 years of age. A condition of parole is that the offender be electronically monitored via a GPS tracking device.

- Missouri sheriffs' departments are now allowed to maintain an Internet website which lists the registered sex offenders in their county, including the sex offender's photograph.
- The crime of sexual contact with a student was established for circumstances in which sexual contact is made by an adult teacher on public school grounds. Previously, no penalty existed for sexual contact that did not involve intercourse between a teacher and a student.
- The Missouri State Highway Patrol is now allowed to collect fingerprints from individuals employed in a capacity involving the care or supervision of minors.

Missouri Joins the Amber Alert Web Portal

In May, Missouri joined the AMBER Alert Web Portal. The AMBER Alert Web Portal employs next-generation technology to engage and empower every organization, broadcaster, and citizen with the real-time information needed to save an abducted child's life.



UPI Photo/Bill Greenblatt

The AMBER Alert Web Portal enables law enforcement to sign-in and enter all of the necessary data regarding a missing child. For the first time, law enforcement officials can communicate live, directly with citizens, through a simple opt-in, sign-up process allowing the public to receive the real-time, locally-relevant AMBER

Alerts via different communication devices such as pagers, cell phones, and e-mails.